



Friday
January 7,
2011

Weekly Views

The Indiana Department of Correction is pleased to welcome back Julie Von Arx-Lanham. Julie will be returning to the Department to play an important role in our Agency's re-entry initiatives. As Executive Director of Transitional Services, she will be developing new policies that improve offender transition, and she will support and help implement the recommendations of the Council of State Government's Justice Reinvestment Project. As an Executive Director, Ms. Lanham will serve as a member of the Commissioner's Executive Staff, and will oversee our Agency's reentry and transition services.

Superintendent Mark Sevier and Superintendent Alan Finnan are pleased to announce that Ms. Laurie Johnson from Pendleton Correctional Facility has been promoted to Assistant Superintendent at Miami Correctional Facility. Ms. Johnson began her career with the IDOC in March 1990 as a Correctional Officer and has worked her way up the ranks in custody and training to her current position as Unit Team Manager. In 2009, Laurie graduated from the Department's Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program. Her knowledge and experience will be an asset for Miami, and the facility is looking forward to her arrival on January 24, 2011 where she will be assigned as Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry.

60 Daviess County 5th graders were briefed about life in a maximum-security prison from Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PIO Rich Larsen. The Barr Reeve Elementary students are taking part in the Legal Education to Arrest Delinquency (LEAD) Program. The group learned more about IDOC and Wabash Valley programs designed to help offenders successfully re-enter society. (see photo right)



Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) Varsity Basketball Team hosted a thrilling game with Michigan City's Intramural Traveling team. In an exciting overtime, WCC prevailed 121-120. The game was videotaped and will be shown to all the offender population over the closed circuit TV. The team welcomes Chicago's Moody Bible College this upcoming Saturday.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a staff assembly. Administrative staff provided employees with an update of significant events occurring at the facility and employees were honored for various accomplishments. Guests at the event included IDOC Executive Director of Adult Facilities Stanley Knight and Ombudsman Bureau Division Director Charlene Burkett. Several employees were presented certificates in recognition of years of service and completion of U.S. Department of Labor Training Programs. Correctional Officer Michael Eden was recognized as Employee of the Quarter and Correctional Casework Manager Andrew Cole was named as the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter. Two recently retired employees were also honored, Correctional Sergeant William Nicholson (33 years) and Recreation Leader Farouk Rezkalla (20 years).

George Korepanow, a new officer from the Indiana State Prison, was recognized with the Teamwork Award at the Northern Regional Correctional Training Graduation. Welcome George to the Department of Correction family.

Interns and staff from the Sagamore Institute, a nonprofit public policy research organization based in Indianapolis, visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). The group toured the grounds and spoke with staff and residents about the IREF program's impact on the residents' incarceration and re-entry.

Rockville Correctional Facility held the facility's fourth blood drive for 2010. Twenty four units of blood were successfully collected.

The Indiana Blood Center conducted a blood drive at the Edinburgh Correctional Facility. Twenty-Seven staff members donated and five others attempted to give blood.

After earning 11 high school credits at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility's (MJCF) Promise Junior/Senior High School, a MJCF student has completed all her course work to earn her High School Diploma.

28 staff members from IDOC Central Office hit the scales to weigh-in for the 2nd Annual Central Office Biggest Loser competition. Over the next 12 weeks, 14 teams of two will compete in the healthy weight loss competition. Besides the team competition, various events have been planned for participants to better create a happier, healthier lifestyle.